

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W

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P 161444Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3247

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1461

EUR/EE FOR ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, HU

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS--HUNGARIAN

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE ESZTERGALYOS

REFS: A) BUDAPEST 1263: B) BUDAPEST 1462

1. AT RECENT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR FOR ESZTERGALYOS, VARKONYI INQUIRED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT WHITE HOUSE PROCEDURES GOVERNING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY NEW AMBASSADORS. MFA HAS HAD NO EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH MATTERS SINCE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION WHEN WHITE HOUSE WAITED UNTIL FIVE OR SIX AMBASSADORS ON HAND, AT WHICH POINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE RECEIVED THEM EN MASSE.

2. AS DEPT AWARE (PARA 2, REFTEL A), AMBASSADOR MCAULIFFE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT LOSONCZI MOST PROMPTLY, EXACTLY SEVEN DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL IN BUDAPEST. HUNGARIANS RECOGNIZE THAT PRESIDENT FORD MAY NOT RECEIVE ESTERGALYOS THAT QUICKLY. HOWEVER, BEING ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO THEIR FORMER STATUS AS SOMETHING OF A PARIAH AND KNOWING FULL WELL THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR SZABO NEVER SCIENTILLATED, THEY DO HOPE THAT ESZTERGALYOS CAN

ASSUME HIS PROPER FUNCTION, MAKE HIS COURTESY CALLS, AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY ARE  
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STILL HOPEFUL THAT NOT TOO LONG A TIME WILL ELAPSE BEFORE

HE PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS.

3. BOTH ESZTERGALYOS AND VARKONYI WERE AT GREAT PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ESZTERGALYOS MUST REPEAT MUST BE BACK IN BUDAPEST IN JULY FOR CONSULTATIONS--AND THAT HE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. DCM KOVACS WILL ALSO BE IN BUDAPEST FOR MONTH'S "HOLIDAY" COVERING JUNE-JULY PERIOD, BUT WILL RETURN TO U.S. PRIOR TO ESZTERGALYOS' DEPARTURE IN JULY.

4. COMMENT: HUNGARIANS OBVIOUSLY HOPE THAT ESZTERGALYOS CAN PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS BEFORE MID-JUNE IN ORDER THAT HE CAN DISPOSE OF PROTOCOL VISITS AND BEGIN TO FUNCTION PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO BUDAPEST IN JULY. HE HAS STATED IN THREE CONVERSATIONS "NECESSITY" THAT HE RETURN TO BUDAPEST IN JULY. THIS REITERATION LEADS EMBASSY TO BELIEVE THAT SOME HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN POLICY MEETING AND/OR PERSONNEL SHUFFLE MAY BE TAKING PLACE AT THAT TIME, AND THAT ESZTERGALYOS WISHES TO BE FULLY ACCREDITED AND ESTABLISHED AS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON BY THEN SO THAT HE CAN MAKE SUBSTANTIVE INPUT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PERMIT EMBASSY TO RESPOND TO VARKONYI'S REQUEST RE CURRENT WHITE HOUSE PRACTICE. DEPARTMENT'S BEST GUESTIMATE RE ESZTERGALYOS' PROSPECTS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.  
MCAULIFFE

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